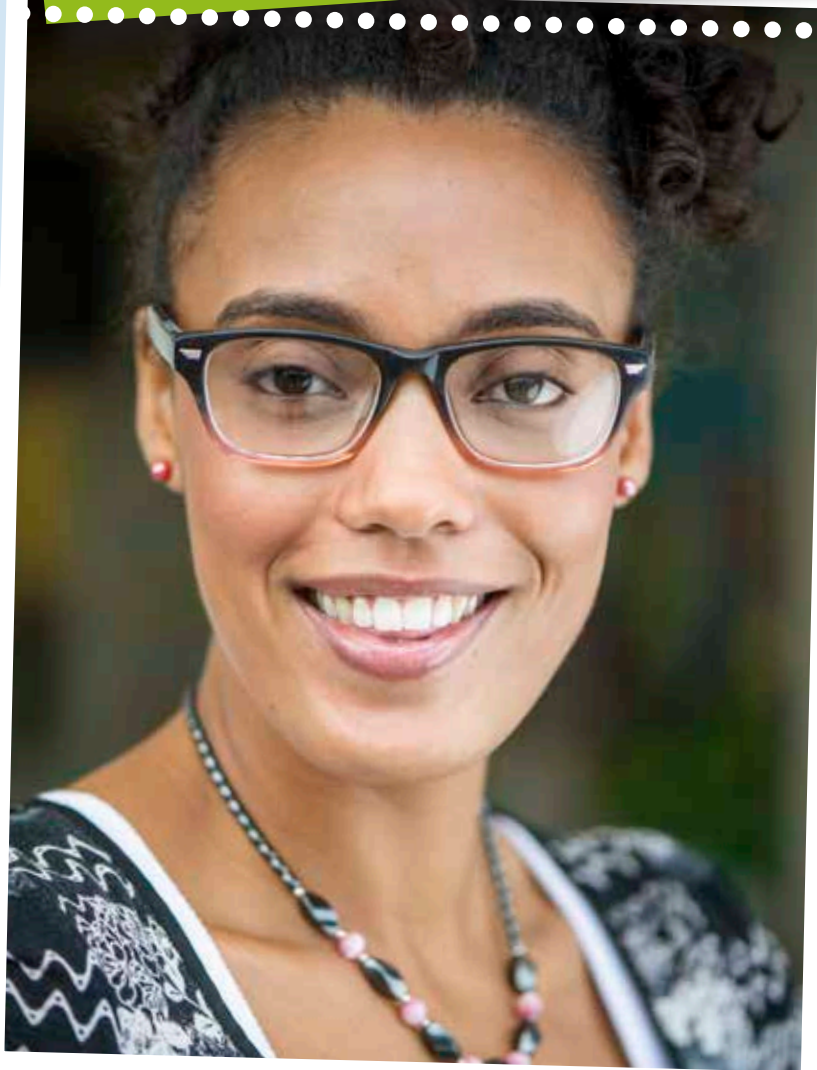


Helping the children develop and preparing them for life makes every day in the job worthwhile for Natalie and Graham at Northwold Primary School



Natalie Andrew and Graham Howie are both experienced teachers. Natalie teaches a reception class and is in her fourth year at Northwold and Graham teaches a Year Two class and is in his fifth year at the school.

Encouraging core skills

One of the best parts of the job is helping the children to develop core skills, says Natalie. "I really enjoy helping them learn to read and write as these are skills that they will have for life. Part of my job is helping the children to talk and to learn to listen to what is being said to them. It is really rewarding and I get lots of job satisfaction from working with young children."

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Learning for life

As his career has progressed, Graham believes he has developed a deeper understanding of the importance of his job. He says: "In the last year particularly I have begun to appreciate the influence I can have in preparing children for life. The children I teach are aged between six and seven and this is a vital time in their education. As well as working with the children in the classroom, I like going out with them for residential weeks when they experience staying in a country house and I also enjoy helping with the school tennis club."

Teaching varied subjects

Natalie teaches literacy and numeracy, using the letters and sounds programme, and supported reading. She also engages with the children in structured play, both indoors and outdoors. "I particularly enjoy taking a small group of children and working with them closely, while the class's teaching assistant and nursery officer lead other groups," she says.

Graham teaches his class literacy, numeracy, science and RE. "We also study a different International Primary Curriculum topic each term, such as day and night, which we are currently exploring as a class," he says.

Enjoying activities

Natalie likes the fact Northwold is such a vibrant school, with a very inclusive, mixed community. She says: "I am pleased that the curriculum is put over to the children in such an exciting way. We have plenty of celebrations during the year at the school, such as for World Book Day when the children all got dressed up."

Graham enjoys helping the children with charity work. He says: "I am involved with a charity called Free the Children, which aims to empower young people to bring about change in the world. Any

children who wish to get involved with raising money can help other children less fortunate than themselves. Children who help with Northwold's fund raising project for Free the Children are learning that they have the power to affect change in a positive way."

Tracking progress

Natalie loves seeing the children make progress. She says: "I teach children from when they are four to their fifth birthday and so I see lots of development. The children have specialist subject teachers for ICT, Music and PE and like every other class in the school they are learning Spanish with the help of two Spanish assistants. Teaching here is exciting, every day is different and there is always something going on. Northwold has some lovely children who are very willing to learn, which makes coming to work at the school each day really worth it."

Opportunities for staff and pupils

Natalie says Northwold provides lots of opportunities for the staff, such as further training to help with career progression. She says: "Staff are well looked after and made to feel valued and given regular treats by the school, such as professional massages."

Graham likes the fact that Northwold has useful links with the local community and other external organisations. He says: "One of the best things about the school is that they are involved with a lot of outside agencies and the children are taught that they really do have the power to make a difference to the world."

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